

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
IO-14 ACDA-12 SY-05 MCT-01 /109 W  
-----103237 211036Z /17

R 191530Z APR 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6665  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS USBERLIN 0915

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, GW, WB  
SUBJECT: GDR PROTESTS "ATTACKS" ON S-BAHN IN WEST BERLIN

REF: (A) BERLIN 2642, (B) USBERLIN 0877, (C) BERLIN 2555

1. ALL MAJOR WEST BERLIN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ON 4/19/78 THAT THE SENAT HAS REJECTED CRITICISM OF SED PARTY ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND THAT THE WEST BERLIN GOVERNMENT TOLERATES "HOSTILE ACTIONS" AGAINST THE REICHSBAHN. (REFTEL A) THE SED PAPER HAD REFERRED TO THREE ATTACKS ON THE S-BAHN AND HAD PUBLISHED A DEMAND BY THE GDR MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT THE SENAT SHOULD TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS "IN ORDER TO STOP THESE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES."

2. SENAT SPOKESMAN SOETJE SAID THE SENAT WAS "VERY INTERESTED" IN APPREHENDING THE OFFENDERS. IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DO SO, HOWEVER, ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION MUST BE SUBMITTED AT AN EARLY DATE. SOETJE SAID IT WAS "ABSURD AND NOT BORNE OUT BY THE FACTS" TO ACCUSE THE SENAT OF NOT BEING IN-  
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TERESTED IN PUNISHING THE OFFENDERS, OR EVEN TOLERATING THESE ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO THE SENAT SPOKESMAN THE ACTIONS OF THE GDR VIOLATED LAWS AND AN ALLIED ORDER DATED 1962 WHICH REGULATES THE AUTHORITY OF THE RAILROAD POLICE (BAHNPOLIZEI). THE 1962 BK/O AUTHORIZES THE "BAHNPOLIZEI" TO INITIATE ACTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE BAHNPOLIZEI ARE OBLIGED TO INFORM THE WEST BERLIN

POLICE IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT DELAY.

3. SOETJE ALSO HAD HARSH WORDS FOR THE DRAWN OUT BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES AND TIME LAGS INVOLVED IN GETTING WORD TO WEST BERLIN POLICE, MAKING IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES TO LOCATE OR APPREHEND OFFENDERS.

4. SENAT OFFICIALS HOLD THE OPINION (WHICH WE SHARE) THAT REICHSBAHN AND EAST BERLIN OFFICIALS ARE FAR LESS INTERESTED IN APPREHENDING THE OFFENDERS IN THESE CASES THAN THEY ARE IN MAKING CHEAP PROPAGANDA POINTS BY MAKING IT APPEAR THAT THE WEST BERLIN POLICE AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM EFFECTIVELY. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 78 BERLIN 2642, 78 USBERLIN 877, 78 BERLIN 2555  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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